

Case 3537**ATHETINI Casey, 1910 and GEOSTIBINA Seevers, 1978 (Insecta, Coleoptera, STAPHYLINIDAE, ALEOCHARINAE): proposed conservation**

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Abstract. The purpose of this application, under Article 23.9.3 of the Code, is to conserve the family-group names ATHETINI Casey, 1910 and GEOSTIBINA Seevers, 1978 for a group of rove beetles. The names are threatened by a little used senior synonym CALLICERINI Jakobson, 1908. The name ATHETINI Casey, 1910 has become widely accepted and is in prevailing usage. The names CALLICERINI Jakobson, 1908 (Insecta, Coleoptera) and CALLICERINI Rondani, 1845 (Insecta, Diptera) are homonyms resulting from similarity of the names of their type genera, *Callicerus* Gravenhorst, 1802 and *Callicera* Panzer, 1809, respectively. This homonymy should be removed as required by Article 55.3.1 of the Code. It is proposed that the name CALLICERINI Jakobson, 1908 be suppressed.

Keywords. Nomenclature; taxonomy; Coleoptera; STAPHYLINIDAE; ALEOCHARINAE; CALLICERINI; CALLICERINA; ATHETINI; ATHETINA; GEOSTIBINA; *Callicerus*; *Atheta*; *Geostiba*; *Callicerus obscurus*; *Atheta graminicola*; *Geostiba circellaris*; Diptera; SYRPHIDAE; *Callicera*; *Callicera aenea*; rove beetles; Palaeartic.

1. Panzer (1809, p. 17) established the genus *Callicera* for a species of fly. The type species is *Bibio aenea* Fabricius, 1777 (p. 305), by monotypy.

2. Rondani (1845, p. 451) established the family-group name CALLICERINI (spelled as Calicerellae) at the rank of 'linea' for a group of syrphids, without listing any genera. Considering the stem of the name Calicerellae and Rondani's subsequent publications (e.g. 1856, p. 55) it is clear that he based his family-group name on the genus *Callicera* Panzer, 1809.

3. The name CALLICERINI Rondani, 1845 is currently in use as a valid name for a tribe of syrphids (e.g. Sabrosky, 1999, p. 72; Rotheray & Gilbert, 1999, p. 4; Cheng et al., 2000, p. 147; Ståhls et al., 2003, p. 436; Bartsch, 2009, p. 42).

4. Gravenhorst (1802, p. 65) established the genus *Callicerus* for a species of staphylinid beetle. The type species is *Callicerus obscurus* Gravenhorst, 1802 (p. 66), by monotypy.

5. In a key to subfamilies and tribes of rove beetles, Jakobson (1908, p. 448) established the tribe CALLICERINI (spelled as Callicerina) without listing any genera included in that tribe. The 1908 publication is part 6 of a work published in eleven parts. In the next part of that work (part 7) Jakobson (1909, p. 537) used the name CALLICERINI Jakobson, 1908 (spelled as Callicerina) as the valid name for the tribe MYRMEDONIINI Thomson, 1867 (p. 209), without explaining why he considered the

senior name to be invalid. The name CALLICERINI Jakobson, 1908 was overlooked by subsequent staphylinid researchers and was not used again until 1967.

6. Thomson (1858, p. 36) established the genus *Atheta* for a group of staphylinid beetles. The type species is *Aleochara graminicola* Gravenhorst, 1806 (p. 176), by monotypy, as fixed by a ruling in Opinion 600 (BZN 18: 241–243, August 1961). The name *Atheta* Thomson, 1858 was placed on the Official List of Generic names in Zoology by a ruling in Opinion 600 (BZN 18: 241–243, August 1961).

7. Casey (1910, p. 2) established the tribe ATHETINI (spelled as Athetae) for the genus *Atheta* Thomson, 1858 and related genera of aleocharine staphylinids.

8. Thomson (1858, p. 33) established the rove beetle genus *Geostiba*. The type species by monotypy is *Aleochara circellaris* Gravenhorst, 1806 (p. 155), fixed by a ruling in Opinion 2098 (BZN 62: 43–44, March 2005). The name *Geostiba* Thomson, 1858 was placed on the Official List of Generic names in Zoology by a ruling in Opinion 2098 (BZN 62: 43–44, March 2005).

8. Seevers (1978, p. 126) established the subtribe GEOSTIBINA for *Geostiba* Thomson, 1858 and six additional genera of aleocharine staphylinids.

9. The name CALLICERINI Jakobson, 1908 is a junior homonym of the name CALLICERINI Rondani, 1845, as a result of similarity between the names of their type genera, *Callicerus* Gravenhorst, 1802 and *Callicera* Panzer, 1809, respectively. The senior name is a valid name currently in use, and therefore Article 55.3.1.1 does not apply. According to Article 55.3.1 the case must be referred to the Commission for a ruling to remove the homonymy. Considering that the name CALLICERINI Rondani, 1845 is the senior homonym and valid name currently in use, an emendation of spelling of the name CALLICERINI Rondani, 1845 would not promote the stability of nomenclature and should be avoided. Whatever course of action is taken, it should focus on the name CALLICERINI Jakobson, 1908. In order to propose a solution promoting the stability of the rove beetle nomenclature, the recent use of the family-group names ATHETINI, CALLICERINI Jakobson, 1908 and GEOSTIBINA must be examined, because the names ATHETINI and CALLICERINI Jakobson, 1908 are usually treated as synonyms at the rank of tribe (but not subtribe), while CALLICERINA Jakobson, 1908 and GEOSTIBINA have been treated as synonyms at the rank of subtribe (see 14 and 15).

10. Horion (1967, pp. iii, 220) used the tribe name CALLICERINI (cited ‘*sensu* Lohse i. 1. 1966’) without referring to Jakobson’s earlier use of that name (Jakobson, 1908, 1909), but without explicitly introducing the name as new either. Horion was aware of Jakobson’s works (1908, 1909) and listed them in references. As interpreted by Newton & Thayer (1992, p. 47) Horion introduced a new name CALLICERINI Horion, 1967. An alternative interpretation could be that Horion used the name CALLICERINI Jakobson, 1908. According to the list of references in Horion’s work, ‘Lohse i. 1. 1966’ is the manuscript of the work which was scheduled to be published in 1969, and was in fact published in 1974 (Lohse, 1974; Benick & Lohse, 1974).

11. Lohse (1969, pp. 173, 174, 175) used the name CALLICERINI for a tribe accommodating most of the Central European genera formerly placed in MYRMEDONINI Thomson, 1867. He argued that CALLICERINI and not ATHETINI should be used as the valid name for the tribe, because *Callicerus* is the oldest genus name in that tribe. This line of argument is not justified by the Code. Lohse (1969) did not refer to Jakobson’s (1908, 1909) or Horion’s (1967) earlier use of the name CALLICERINI, nor

did he explicitly introduce the name *CALLICERINI* as new. As interpreted by Newton & Thayer (1992, p. 47) Lohse introduced a new name *CALLICERINI* Lohse, 1969. An alternative interpretation could be that Lohse used the name *CALLICERINI* Jakobson, 1908 or *CALLICERINI* Horion, 1967.

12. In a part of the work referred to by Horion (1967) as 'Lohse 1966 i. l.', Benick & Lohse (1974, p. 72) used the tribe name *CALLICERINI* as valid and *ATHETINI* (spelled as *Athetae*) as its invalid synonym, without providing any explanation for this decision. The work by Benick & Lohse (1974) is widely used, as it contains the most complete and up-to-date keys to Central European genera and species of the tribe. Immediately after the publication of that work, the tribe name *CALLICERINI* began to be frequently used as valid. This practice continued until 1990–1991, when most taxonomists switched to using *ATHETINI* as the valid name for the tribe (see 14).

13. Newton & Thayer (1992) drew attention to homonymy of the names *CALLICERINI* Jakobson, 1908 (Coleoptera) and *CALLICERINI* Rondani, 1845 (Diptera), pointing out that the case must be referred to the Commission and suggesting that the Commission could either suppress the junior name or change the stem of one homonym. Newton & Thayer (1992) further demonstrated that suppression or non-suppression of the name *CALLICERINI* Jakobson, 1908 might affect the validity of the much more widely used family-group name *ATHETINI* Casey, 1910, and argued that for rove beetles the relative merit of the two alternative solutions to the problem posed by the homonymy depends on the taxonomic situation within the group. They left it to the specialists in aleocharine rove beetles to submit an appropriate application to the Commission.

14. At the rank of tribe the names *CALLICERINI* Jakobson, 1908 and *ATHETINI* have always been treated as synonyms, whether explicitly (e.g. by listing both names as synonyms) or implicitly (e.g. by listing the type genus of one of the two tribes as a member of the other). After the use of the rove beetle name *CALLICERINI* had been resumed by Horion (1967), Lohse (1969) and Benick & Lohse (1974), it was used as a valid tribe name in at least 37 papers by at least 10 authors during the period between 1975 and 2010 (e.g. Kistner, 1976, p. 83; Yosii & Sawada, 1976, p. 12; Muona, 1979, p. 23; Pace, 1982, p. 75; 1991, p. 136; Kofler & Benick, 1983, p. 146; Haghebaert, 1990, p. 91; Stourac & Krasensky, 2002, p. 263; a full list has been submitted to the Commission Secretariat). In three additional papers (Lohse, 1989, p. 199; Lohse et al., 1990, p. 123; Elven et al., 2010, p. 87) it was used as a valid subtribe but not tribe name. During the same period of time, the name *ATHETINI* was used as valid tribe name in at least 93 papers by at least 22 authors (in fact, many more) (e.g. Pace, 1983a, p. 185; 1993, p. 72; 2009, p. 26; Lohse & Smetana, 1985, p. 281; Lohse et al., 1990, p. 123; Ahn & Ashe, 1992, p. 347; Assing, 2001, p. 252; Gusarov, 2004, p. 14; a full list has been submitted to the Commission Secretariat). Further, after 1991 the name *CALLICERINI* was used as valid only in 2 papers by 3 authors, while the name *ATHETINI* was used as the valid tribe name in at least 89 papers by 21 authors, including the widely used Palearctic catalogue (Smetana, 2004, p. 362). This means that the stability of nomenclature will be better served by suppressing the name *CALLICERINI* Jakobson, 1908, than by simply emending it to remove the homonymy with the name *CALLICERINI* Rondani, 1845. If the name *CALLICERINI* Jakobson, 1908 were emended, it would become the oldest available

name for the tribe, and the much more widely used name *ATHETINI* would become invalid.

15. In the very few cases (6 papers by 11 authors) where the name *CALLICERINA* Jakobson, 1908 was used at the rank of subtribe, whether as valid (Muona, 1979, p. 23; Pace, 1985b, p. 170 (spelled as *Callicerinae*); Lohse, 1989, p. 199; Lohse et al., 1990, p. 123; Elven et al., 2010, p. 87), or invalid (Newton & Thayer, 1992, p. 47), it was always treated as a subtribe separate from *ATHETINA*. Therefore, a name for the subtribe that includes the genus *Callicerus* but not *Atheta* is still needed. As pointed out by Newton & Thayer (1992, p. 47) another available name exists for this subtribe, *GEOSTIBINA* Seevers, 1978. Several papers suggest (e.g. Yosii & Sawada, 1976; Muona, 1979) that the genera *Callicerus* and *Geostiba* are related, and it is highly unlikely that they will ever be placed in different subtribes. That means that the family-group name that includes *Callicerus*, but not *Geostiba*, will not be needed. At the rank of subtribe, the name *GEOSTIBINA* has been used as valid name in 9 papers by 11 authors (Seevers, 1978, p. 126; Pace 1983b, p. 97; 1984a, p. 316; 1984b, p. 215; 1985a, p. 98; Newton & Thayer, 1992, p. 47; Newton et al., 2000, p. 370; Gouix & Klimaszewski, 2007, p. 97; Elven et al., 2010, p. 87). Considering the history of usage of *CALLICERINA* and *GEOSTIBINA*, the stability of nomenclature will be better served if the name *CALLICERINI* Jakobson, 1908 is suppressed altogether, rather than emended to remove homonymy with *CALLICERINI* Rondani, 1845, even with the endorsement that *CALLICERINI* Jakobson, 1908 is not to be given priority over the family-group name *ATHETINI* Casey, 1910.

16. The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is accordingly asked:

- (1) to use its plenary power to suppress for the purposes of both the Principle of Priority and the Principle of Homonymy the following names:
 - (a) *CALLICERINI* Jakobson, 1908;
 - (b) *CALLICERINI* Horion, 1967;
 - (c) *CALLICERINI* Lohse, 1969;
- (2) to place on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology the following names:
 - (a) *Callicera* Panzer, 1809 (gender: feminine), type species by monotypy *Bibio aenea* Fabricius, 1777;
 - (b) *Callicerus* Gravenhorst, 1802 (gender: masculine), type species by monotypy *Callicerus obscurus* Gravenhorst, 1802;
- (3) to place on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology the following names:
 - (a) *aenea* Fabricius, 1777, as published in the binomen *Bibio aenea* Fabricius, 1777 (specific name of the type species of *Callicera* Panzer, 1809);
 - (b) *obscurus* Gravenhorst, 1802, as published in the binomen *Callicerus obscurus* Gravenhorst, 1802 (specific name of the type species of *Callicerus* Gravenhorst, 1802);
- (4) to place on the Official List of Family-Group Names in Zoology the following names:
 - (a) *CALLICERINI* Rondani, 1845, type genus *Callicera* Panzer, 1809 (Insecta, Diptera);
 - (b) *ATHETINI* Casey, 1910, type genus *Atheta* Thomson, 1858 (Insecta, Coleoptera);

- (c) GEOSTIBINA Seevers, 1978, type genus *Geostiba* Thomson, 1858 (Insecta, Coleoptera);
- (5) to place on the Official List of Rejected and Invalid Family-Group Names in Zoology the following names:
- (a) CALLICERINI Jakobson, 1908 (junior homonym of CALLICERINI Rondani, 1845), as suppressed in (1) (a) above;
- (b) CALLICERINI Horion, 1967 (junior homonym of CALLICERINI Rondani, 1845), as suppressed in (1) (b) above;
- (c) CALLICERINI Lohse, 1969 (junior homonym of CALLICERINI Rondani, 1845), as suppressed in (1) (c) above.

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